

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 IO-10

SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 150852Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2988

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, EFIN, US, EG, KU

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT VISITS KUWAIT

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT VISITED KUWAIT MAY 12-14, HOLDING TWO LONG SESSIONS WITH AMIR AND KEY GOK OFFICIALS. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH ARAB/ISRAELI PROBLEM AND PROPOSED GENEVA PARLEY. TWO IMPORTANT SIDE ISSUES -- THE IRAQI/KUWAITI BOUNDARY PROBLEM AND EGYPT'S NEED FOR BOP SUPPORT-- APPARENTLY RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION, BUT LITTLE INFO IS YET AVAILABLE CONCERNING POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THESE TWO AREAS. END SUMMARY

1. EYPGTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT VISITED KUWAIT MAY 12-14 ON FIRST STOP

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OF TOUR WHICH WILL INCLUDE BAGHDAD, DAMASCUS AND AMMAN. SADAT AND

PARTY, WHICH NUMBERED ALMOST 200 AND INCLUDED VICE PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK, FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMY ZAKI SHAFIE, WAS ROYALLY RECEIVED AND ENTERTAINED BY GOK. VISIT CONCLUDED WITH BLAND COMMUNIQUE AND ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE INTERESTING PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SADAT. NO DETAILS WERE REVEALED RE AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED IN TWO LENGTHY SESSIONS BETWEEN KEY OFFICIALS BOTH SIDES AND A NUMBER OF SEPARATE PARLEYS BETWEEN KEY MINISTERS.

2. JOINT COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED NO SURPRISES, STRESSING INTENTION TWO GOVERNMENTS TO ADHERE TO RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY SEVENTH ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND TO SEEK MAXIMUM ARAB COORDINATION IN CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL AND IN EFFORTS TO RESTORE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE PLO IN ITS CAPACITY AS SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WAS PROMISED. NEED FOR AFRO/ARAB COOPERATION WAS NOTED. COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED GRATUITOUS PRAISE OF "THE VICTORIES ACHIEVED BY THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA". NO REFERENCE WAS MADE TO BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION OR NEED TO RESOLVE INTER-ARAB BORDER PROBLEMS --KEY ISSUES CONFRONTING THE TWO SIDES. COMPLETE TEXT COMMUNIQUE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE CONTAINED IN FBIS WIRELESS FILE.

3. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE SADAT WAS PRESSED HARD BY NEWSMEN MAKING, INTER ALIA, THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) HE WOULD WELCOME ANY EFFORT BY US, USSR OR OTHERS TO SOLVE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, BUT IF GENEVA PEACE TALKS FAIL TO PRODUCE SATISFACTORY RESULTS, ARABS WOULD GO TO WAR WITH ISRAEL.

B) HE PLANS ASK PRESIDENT FORD AT SALZBURG "DOES AMERICA PROTECT ISRAEL WITHIN ITS BORDERS OR WITHIN THE TERRITORIES USURPED FROM ARABS?"

C) ISRAEL WITH ITS 1967 BORDERS IS AN EXISTING FACT WHICH I CANNOT CHANGE. HE WHO WISHES TO CHANGE IT IS INVITED TO DO SO.

D) PRESIDENT FORD CAN SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IF HE WANTS, THE US IS IN POSSESSION OF 90 PERCENT OF THE GAME'S CARDS.

E) GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE THE MAJOR
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POWER AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

F) EGYPT AND KUWAIT HAD DECIDED THAT, IN RESPONSE TO NEW TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EEC, "WE SHOULD ENTER THE MARKET AND FACE ISRAEL THERE AND EVERYWHERE".

G) EGYPT WAS FACING A "HORRIBLE DILEMMA ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT WHICH SOME ARE ATTEMPTING TO EXPLOIT" (WHILE HE DID NOT

ELABORATE, LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT TO INTERVIEW GIVEN BY SADAT TO BEIRUT MAGAZINE "AL HAWADES" WHERE HE ALLEGES THAT USSR HAS REFUSED TO RESCHEDULE EGYPTIAN DEBT AND INDICATES HE PLANS SEEK FINANCIAL AID FROM US AND ARAB STATES TO SETTLE ARMS DEBTS TO USSR.)

4. WITHIN PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION CONCERNING POSSIBLE PROMISES BY SADAT TO ATTEMPT MEDiate KUWAIT/IRAQ BOUNDARY DISPUTE. SADAT REFUSED TO COMMENT TO PRESS ON SUBJECT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD CHARGE THAT "MATTER IS BEING CLOSELY HELD, BUT FOR FIRST TIME WE THINK SOME GENUINE PROGRESS MAY BE POSSIBLE." ANOTHER KEY ISSUE WHICH WAS IGNORED IN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WAS POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL KUWAITI FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO EGYPT. EGYPTIAN BOP PROBLEM WAS OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED BY SADAT, BUT NO PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON SUBJECT WAS MADE BY GOK OFFICIALS. GOK FINMIN ATEEQI TOLD CHARGE FOLLOWING DEPARTURE CEREMONIES THAT "WE RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM AND ARE SYMPATHETIC TO IT".

5. NEITHER UK AMBASSADOR NOR EMBASSY HAVE FURTHER INFO RE DETAILS VISIT AT THIS TIME. ADDITIONAL INFO WILL BE PROVIDED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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